

POLITICS, SOCIETY & GOVERNMENT (HIS 402)

Dr. Louis Shwartz

lshwartz@smac.edu

Dr. Daniel T. Gresham

tgresham@smac.edu

Rooms 200 & 202 ~ Tues. 10:15 - 11:30 & Thurs. 10:15 - 11:30

Office hours by appointment.

Course Description

Students grapple with readings, discussion, and debate centered on famous theories and experiments in political science viewed in their historical context, culminating in a study of Archbishop Lefebvre's *They Have Uncrowned Him* along with an assessment of contemporary American politics. Starting with classical civilization and working to the present, this course serves as a powerful and pertinent review of the various time periods studied in SMC's history curriculum, ultimately prompting students to assess their own place and role in society.

Evaluation Criteria

Seminar Participation – 20%

Students read roughly thirty pages of pre-selected primary source material for each thematically focused seminar. Included with each set of texts are a brief historical introduction and six questions, intended to frame key issues and facilitate discussion.

Discussion Leaders – 20%

Rotating teams of three students direct seminar-style meetings, guiding discussion of the key questions distributed beforehand by the professors. Each of the three leaders takes responsibility for two of the six assigned questions.

Essay Compositions – 25%

Twice during the semester, students select from a list of essay topics then craft a formal composition; each topic engages a particular set of readings.

Midterm & Final Exams – 35%

These timed, in-class examinations test students' knowledge of key concepts emerging from the various readings, prompting them to compose short essay responses and develop key questions grappling with the overall development of western political theory and practice.

DATE	PRESENTATION TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
T 1/16	Introduction & Student Responsibilities	
R 1/18	Greek City-States I	
T 1/23	Greek City-States II	
R 1/25	Roman Republic	
T 1/30	Roman Empire & Christianity	
R 2/1	Roman Empire & Christianity	
T 2/6	Papacy & Medieval Monarchy I	
R 2/8	Papacy & Medieval Monarchy II	
T 2/13	Papacy & Medieval Monarchy III	
R 2/15	Renaissance Humanism	ESSAY #1
T 2/27	Catholic Conservatism	
R 2/29	Body Politic & Social Contract	
T 3/5	War, Slavery & the Law of Nations	
R 3/7	MIDTERM	
T 3/12	Framing the American Republic	
R 3/14	Experiments in Democracy	
T 3/19	Nineteenth-Century Germany	
R 3/21	Classical Liberalism	
T 4/9	American Idealism, Reform & Activism	
R 4/11	Popes Confronting Secularism I	
T 4/16	Popes Confronting Secularism II	
R 4/18	A Democratic Church	ESSAY #2

T 4/23	Christ the Eternal King I	
R 4/25	Christ the Eternal King II	
T 4/30	Church & State in America	
R 5/2	Democracy & Planned Economy	
T 5/7	American Capitalism	

SCHEDULED READINGS

#1 Greek City-States: Part One

Plato, *The Republic*. Translated by Tom Griffith. Cambridge University Press, 2000.

#2 Greek City-States: Part Two

Aristotle, *The Politics*. Translated by Stephen Everson. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

#3 Roman Republic

Cicero, *On the Commonwealth* and *On the Laws*. Translated by James Zetzel. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

#4 Roman Empire and Christianity

Augustine, *Political Writings*. Translated by Michael Tkacz and Douglas Kries. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1994.

#5 Papacy and Medieval Monarchy: Part One

Aquinas, *Political Writings*. Translated by R. W. Dyson. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

#6 Papacy and Medieval Monarchy: Part Two

John of Paris, *On Royal and Papal Power*. Translated by J. A. Watt. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 1971.

Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam*. Translated by Brian Tierney in *The Crisis of Church and State, 1050-1300* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1964), pp. 188-189.

#7 Papacy and Medieval Monarchy: Part Three

Marsilius of Padua, *The Defender of the Peace*. Translated by Annabel Brett. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

#8 Renaissance Humanism

Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Translated by Quentin Skinner and Russell Price. Cambridge University Press, 2019.

#9 Catholic Conservatism

Robert Bellarmine, *De Laicis* or *The Treatise on Civil Government*. Translated by Kathleen Murphy. New York: Fordham University Press, 1928.

#10 Body Politic and Social Contract

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*. Edited by Richard Tuck. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*. Edited by Peter Laslett. Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*. Translated by Roger Masters and Judith Masters; excerpted from Mitchell Cohen (ed.), *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*, Second Edition (Princeton University Press, 2018), pp. 270-275.

#11 War, Slavery and the Law of Nations

Hugo Grotius, *On the Law of War and Peace*. Translated by Stephen Neff. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*. Translated by Anne Cohler, Basia Miller and Harold Stone. Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Voltaire, *Political Writings*. Translated by David Williams. Cambridge University Press, 1994.

#12 Framing the American Republic

Federalist Papers (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Anti-Federalist Essays from *The Essential Debate on the Constitution*, Robert Allison and Bernard Bailyn, eds. (Penguin Random House, 2018).

#13 Experiments in Democracy

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, "On the Government of Democracy in America," 187–217.

Andrew Jackson, *Farewell Address* (excerpt).

#14 Court Rulings and Party Politics: A Weak State?

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, "On Parliamentary Eloquence in the US," 472–6.

Martin van Buren, *Inquiry into the Origin and Course of Political Parties in America*.

Marbury v. Madison.

#15 Slavery and States' Rights

John C. Calhoun, "A Discourse on the Constitution and Government of the United States," from C. Gordon Post, ed., *Calhoun: A Disquisition on Government and Selections from the Discourse*, 88–100..

Abraham Lincoln, "A House Divided Speech," 54–62, and "Cooper Union Address," 92–110 from *Lincoln: Political Writings and Speeches* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

#16 Sturm und Drang: Nineteenth-Century Germany

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*. Translated by Samuel Moore; edited by Gareth Jones. New York: Penguin Books, 2002.

Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*. Translated by H. B. Nisbet; edited by Allen Wood. Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*. Translated by Carol Diethe; edited by Keith Ansell-Pearson. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

#17 Classical Liberalism

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Writings*. New York: LG Classics, 2016.

#18 American Idealism, Reform, and Activism

Jane Addams, "The Subjective Necessity of Social Settlements," 1892.

William Jennings Bryan, "Cross of Gold Speech," 1896.

Theodore Roosevelt, "The New Nationalism," 1910.

#19 Confronting Secularism: Papal Pronouncements Part One

Leo XIII, *Diuturnum: On the Origin of Civil Power*, 1881.

Leo XIII, *Humanum Genus: On Freemasonry*, 1884.

Leo XIII, *Immortale Dei: On the Christian Constitution of States*, 1885.

Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum: On Capital and Labor*, 1891.

Official English translations from vatican.va.

#20 Confronting Secularism: Papal Pronouncements Part Two

Pius X, *Vehementer Nos: On the French Law of Separation*, 1906.

Pius XI, *Quas Primas: On the Feast of Christ the King*, 1925.

Pius XII, *Benignitas et Humanitas: Radio Message for Christmas*, 1944.

Official English translations from vatican.va.

#21 A Democratic Church

Jacques Maritain, *Christianity and Democracy* and *The Rights of Man and the Natural Law*. Translated by Doris Anson. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2011.

Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et spes: On the Church in the World of Today. Dignitatis humanae: On the Dignity of the Human Person*. Translated by Norman Tanner in *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils, Volume Two*. Georgetown University Press, 1990.

#22 Christ the Eternal King: Part One

Marcel Lefebvre, *They Have Uncrowned Him: From Liberalism to Apostacy, the Conciliar Tragedy*. Translated anonymously. Kansas City: Angelus Press, 1988.

#23 Christ the Eternal King: Part Two

Marcel Lefebvre, *They Have Uncrowned Him: From Liberalism to Apostacy, the Conciliar Tragedy*. Translated anonymously. Kansas City: Angelus Press, 1988.

#24 A Wall of Separation: Church and State in America

Thomas Jefferson, "The Different Religions received into that State?" from *Notes on the State of Virginia*, p 163–7.

Thomas Jefferson, *Danbury Address*.

De Tocqueville, "On the Progress of Catholicism in the United States," *Democracy in America*, 425–5.

Torcaso v. Watkins, "On Test Oaths," (1960), 488–96.

John F. Kennedy, "Address to Southern Baptist Leaders," *American Catholic History* (NYU Press, 2017), 160–3.

#25 Democracy and a Planned Economy

Rexford Tugwell, "The Principle of Planning and the Institution of Laissez-Faire."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, "On Moving Forward to Greater Freedom and Greater Security," September 30, 1934.

F. A. Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*, Ch 3 "Individualism and Collectivism" and Ch 7 "Economic Control and Totalitarianism."

#26 American Capitalism

Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*.

Irving Kristol, "Why Big Business is Good for America," from Gregory Schneider ed., *Conservatism in America since 1930* (NYU Press, 2003).
